



THE WYRE DRAWER

EDITION 16

SPRING 2009



*After the 2009 Installation (left to right):
Fourth Warden Rodney Brody, Third Warden John Coker,
Second Warden Vernon Knapper, First Warden John Edgcumbe,
the Master Tim Waller, the Beadle, John Hollingsworth.*

Master's Message

As a former pupil of a City school I was given good insight at a very young age to the workings of the City of London. Every autumn we visited a different venue and ended the day with a church service at St Bartholomew's and tea at Mansion House with the Lord Major. Nearly a half century later I never thought that I would be revisiting my childhood memories in a different guise.

As Master for 2009 I will strive to preserve the City's traditions and continue to enhance the reputation of our own Livery Company.

At a time of considerable pressures on our purse strings I am mindful that our own Charitable Trust needs our support and replenishment and my focus will be a Charity Ball next July at the RAC in Pall Mall to raise money for our Trust Fund and my personal Charity, The Melanoma Foundation.

To reflect the current financial environment I have organised a cost conscious programme which I do hope you will support and enjoy with me during my year of office

Tim Waller, Master 2009-10

**Published by
The Worshipful Company
of Gold and Silver Wye
Drawers**

**9A Prince of Wales Mansions
Prince of Wales Drive
London SW11 4BG**

www.gswd.co.uk

MASTER 2009-10

Tim J Waller

WARDENS

John C Edgcumbe

E M Vernon Knapper

John B Coker

Rodney D Brody

CLERK

Commander Robin E D House

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The New Master

Tim Waller was born on 30 December 1946 in Epsom, Surrey and was educated at the City of London Freeman's school where he met Jacque who in 1968 became his wife.

His 25 year career in banking spanned all aspects of property finance and as a consequence his entrepreneurial spirit enabled him to build up investment interests both in the UK and Eastern Europe.

Latterly he has owned a three star nursing care home and he has just stepped down as Chair of Surrey Care Association Ltd in anticipation of the year ahead.

He joined the Company in 1987, became a Court member in 1995, was promoted to Honorary Assistant Clerk in 1997 and Clerk to the Company from 2000 to 2005. He was made a Freeman of the City of London in November 1971.

His interests outside property and the livery include membership of the RAC, classical music, travel, bridge, golf and fine wine – he is now a Chevalier of the Order of Champagne.

October Court Meeting And Dinner

Sadly at the Court Meeting on 6 October we had to mark the demise of two members of our Livery, Senior Past Master Murray Johnson and Liveryman Noel Porter. Murray joined the Livery in 1942 and had recently celebrated 50 years as Past Master. We also marked the tragic death of Warrant Officer Gary O'Donnell GM, killed in Afghanistan.

The Court proceedings ran smoothly and it was agreed, in an attempt to assist young working members, that for a trial period in 2009, apart from the Installation Meeting, the other three main events should be in the evening.





Soprano Yvonne Patrick entertains guests

As a surprise the Master had engaged soprano Yvonne Patrick and accompanist Nick Bosworth, both Glyndebourne artists, who, to the delight of their audience, gave a polished performance of popular songs.

Warden Vernon Knapper proposed the toast to the guests. Sir Brian Smith as Principal Guest gave an interesting presentation based on his broad technical career spanning Metal Box, Cable & Wireless and BAA to name a few.

A convivial evening closed with a stirrup cup in the upstairs Salon.

James Simmons, Master 2008-9

Visit to Lloyd's of London

In October Assistant Malcolm Craig arranged a very informative visit to one of the City's oldest financial institutions - Lloyd's of London. Attendance was enthusiastic with a maximum group complement of 30 liverymen, wives and partners supporting the event.

We were hosted by a team of Lloyd's professional tour guides who provided us with an excellent historic background on the institution. Its development from its early days during Britain's trade in marine expansion in the 1600's is well known. Its role in assisting our economic well being during the Industrial Revolution era is of equal significance. In the 20th and 21st centuries its part in expanding the boundaries during the space and dot-com eras cannot be ignored.

After the introduction we were treated to a tour of the well known Lloyd's building. Love it or hate it, the modern architecture reflects Lloyd's role in modern Britain where its invisible exports contribute so much to the UK's economy.

Finally, we were treated to a most convivial lunch in a local wine bar. The visit raised more funds for the Company's Charitable Trust.

Assistant Malcolm Craig

Magic Ride to Disneyland

We were proud to support the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers with their annual trip to Disneyland. At crack of dawn on 17 October, 100 London cabs set off from Docklands to Paris. The Master and Mrs Simmons were on hand to wave to the fleet and to the cab we sponsored, generously bearing our Coat of Arms on its door panel.

The convoy, accompanied by police cars, motorcycle outriders, ambulances and medical volunteers, carried 110 children with life threatening conditions, attended by friends and



The cab sponsored by the Company

families, on this memorable three-day expedition.

After enjoying the Park and its rides, the highlight of the trip was a Gala Dinner and disco attended by Disney Characters who mingled with the children, providing a wonderful opportunity for the kids to say 'hello' to their favorites.

The Hackney Carriage drivers have organised this superb charity event since 1994, taking over 3000 children to Disneyland during this time.

Bill MacConnol
Chairman Charity Committee

Mansion House Banquet

To the accompaniment of music by the Thames Fanfare Brass (Director Roy Bilham ARCM), the Master, his lady and the Wardens welcomed liverymen and guests to the Company's Annual Banquet on 3 December at Mansion House by kind permission of the Lord Mayor, Alderman Ian Luder. After the reception the Master and the Lady Mayoress led the procession, which included the Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs and their ladies, into dinner in the Egyptian Hall. It was a sight to behold – colourful and sparkling – surrounded by the history of centuries.

Immediately after the Honorary Chaplain, The Very Reverend Dr Richard Fenwick, had said grace the Master announced it was the Honorary



Left to right: Mrs James Simmons; the Lord Mayor Alderman Ian Luder; The Master James Simmons; The Lady Mayoress Mrs Ian Luder

Chaplain's 65th birthday. The band immediately broke into 'Happy Birthday', which was sung lustily by the whole assembly. The evening's musical highlight was the exciting playing of the Post Horn Galop by Roy Bilham and Tony Adie.

First Warden Tim Waller proposed the toast to the guests and Colonel Dick Harrold, Deputy Governor of the Tower of London, replied with an interesting and entertaining speech.

The Master said that the Banquet was a fitting climax to an amazing year and paid tribute to his wife, the Clerk, Wardens and Court who had made his year so happy and successful

Kenneth Blundell

Carol Service

As the year draws to an end it is always a pleasure to mark the start of the Christmas Season, in the company of liverymen from the Poulters, Clockmakers, Chartered Secretaries, and the Guild of Educators at what has become, after six years, our Annual Carol Service. We were welcomed at the church of St Sepulchre-without-Newgate by the Rector, Dr Peter Mullen, and regaled with ten Carols, four of which were sung by the excellent choir, and five lessons, the third read by our Master. After the service the 200 strong congregation, including 30 from our own Company and their friends, enjoyed wine and good food provided by the 'Cook and Butler', which rounded off a thoroughly good



The Master and Mrs Simmons with the Master of the Poulters' Company, Keith Glenny.

evening. The offertory was given to the Renewal Programme which provides night shelter for the homeless in Newham which the previous year had benefited to the tune of £1,300.

Past Master Michael Roberts

Installation and Lunch

After the Court meeting on 12 January the Master took the chair at Common Hall and gave his valedictory address. After the oath had been administered to the First Warden, Tim Waller was installed and robed as Master for 2009/10. The new Master then installed John Edgcumbe as First Warden, Vernon Knapper as Second Warden, John Coker as Third Warden and Rodney Brody as Fourth Warden.

An excellent luncheon followed, attended by 130 Liverymen and their guests. Past Master Michael Roberts proposed the toast to the guests, introducing the new Court Assistant Glenn Start and Liverymen Paul Cheslaw, Tim Pratt, Robert Booth and Chris Longhurst. The principal guest, Brigadier Chris Murray, gave a first class presentation in reply.

The Master concluded the formalities by thanking Brigadier Murray and congratulating his predecessor as Master, James Simmons, on an outstanding year in office.

Tim Waller, Master, 2009-10



Brigadier Chris Murray, Director RLC, with the new Master, Tim Waller, at the Lunch.

Past Master's Overview 2008

The evening following my installation the Clerk and I attended a Masters and Clerks Dinner at Plaisterers' Hall. From the outset it was splendid in every way. Upon leaving, Robin commented "Master, they are not all like this", and he was quite right. There is a marked difference in the outside functions which the Master has to attend - both in the variety of locations and the standard of hospitality. However, one aspect shines through - the camaraderie which runs throughout the Livery movement. In this respect I am delighted to record that our Company enjoys a high reputation amongst our peers for friendliness and hospitality. And this is no accident for successive Masters have contributed hugely to this distinction and one is conscious of the responsibility of upholding this status. This must be maintained.

For my part it has been the most outstanding privilege, honour and experience of my life. Thus I stand down a very happy man wishing my successor, Tim Waller, the very best of good fortune during his year.

James Simmons, Master, 2008-9

Golfing Society Round-up

Secretary Geoffrey Perkins looks back over the 2008 season.

2008 teed off with an excellent pre-season lunch at the City of London Club when Past Master George Constantinidi was elected Captain for the forthcoming year.

The Spring Meeting was held in May at Tandridge Golf Club when we played for the Clifford Jeapes Love and Friendship Cup, which was won by John Edney. At the Summer Meeting at Denham Golf Club we played a medal round for the Company Rose Bowl, which was won by John Kenyon-Muir. John Edgcumbe won the Handicap prize for the Sir George Wilkinson Cup.

The Society plays in a three-way eight-a-side match with the Royal Logistic Corps Golfing Society and the Carmen's Company Golfing



Left to right: Mrs Jill Simmons, The Master, Golfing Society Captain 2008 Past Master George Constantinidi, Secretary Geoffrey Perkins.

Society at the Army Golf Club in Aldershot. We won this year with 202 points (although our good score was boosted by borrowing two very good golfers from the RLC to make up our numbers).

Captain's Day at The Berkshire Golf Club was a sunny summer day with ten members and 17 guests playing 18 holes over the Blue Course in the morning and 18 holes on the Red Course in the afternoon. We play a medal competition in teams of three off full handicap with the best ball score counting for The Peter Trower Trophy. This was won by Mark Cockburn's team of John Davison and Geoff Allan. The best morning score was by our Captain's team of Roger Cornick and Nick Jenkins and the afternoon prize was won by Ian Millar, Bill Barratt and John Burke, guests of John Wynn.

The highlight of the season on a dull autumn day was at Swinley Forest Golf Club when our non playing Master, James Simmons, and his lady visited us. They toured the course in a golf buggy and presented prizes in the evening to Malcolm Craig, winner of the Herbert Toye Cup, and John Edney who won the Henry Cotton Cup.

Attendance during the season was lower than usual as some of our regular members could not join us. We are keen to attract new members so if you play the game and would like to join please contact: Geoffrey B Perkins
Tel 01737 553565. gbperkins@nascr.net

Website News

The Company's website address is <http://www.gswd.co.uk>. We are continually adding content to make the site more interesting to both members and non-members of the Livery.

On the site you will find electronic versions of The Wyre Drawer from edition five (Autumn 2003) as well as Masters' Reports from Ken Blundell to Brian Jones.

We have posted galleries containing photographs of almost every event back to the start of this Livery year and are adding new galleries as photographs become available. There is also a calendar which is updated as new events are notified. The Charity pages are also updated regularly and you can find the 200 Club winners posted here after each draw.

Finally, we have a Members' Only area which currently contains an electronic version of the 2006 Livery List but will have other documents of relevance to Liverymen, but not for general circulation. In response to concerns expressed by some Liverymen and Court members, we are changing the method of access and all Liverymen who have notified the Clerk of their email addresses will be sent detailed instructions on how to gain access as this edition of The Wyre Drawer is published. Members are also advised that we are registered under the Data Protection Act.

Please look at the site and let the Webmaster or the Clerk know what else you would find useful and would like to see.

David Bondy Webmaster
(webmaster@gswd.co.uk)

Lodge of Love & Friendship No 6123

The Lodge, founded in 1945, is open to male members of the Company. Those already entitled to join, or those wishing to become Freemasons, should contact the Lodge Secretary: Tel: 01992 641628 or email: lodge@gswd.co.uk

200 Club

Currently we have 159 tickets in the quarterly draw, providing a welcome £3975 for the Livery Charitable Trust Fund, whilst leaving a similar amount for distribution in prize money to our Members. Three prize winners are drawn by the Master at each Court meeting during the year and a fourth ticket is drawn as a bonus charity donation of £100 which we gladly send to any registered charity nominated by the winner in his/her name. All winners' names are published on our web site after each draw. If you are not yet a 200 Club member please consider joining this simple and rewarding Livery initiative. Tickets cost £50 each and as they say "you got to be in it to win it"

Existing members, together with Liverymen not yet participating will have received renewal requests and joining forms early in 2009. With your help we are trying to organize matters to minimize the paperwork for our busy Clerk, and to enable Robert Lampitt, our Charity Steward, to monitor the details more readily. If you have not yet done so please respond to this circulation urgently. The simplest way you can help is to pay by standing order. This ensures you do not need to be contacted annually (but of course you can cancel at any time) and your Committee saves on administration

But however you chose to pay, do please join in. You will be most welcome for what is, after all, just a bit of fun - and all in a worthy cause.

Many thanks for your support.

Bill MacConnol
Chairman Charity Committee

The Court

The Court of the Company consists of the Master, Wardens, Past Masters and Assistants. It is organized and administered by the Clerk. The Court meets four times a year and is the 'Board' of the Company. It approves and oversees the admission of new Liverymen and Court Assistants, approves the annual accounts, hears reports from the Committees (Master's, Finance,

Charity, Fundraising and Events and Communications), and from the liaison officers for the Armed Services and Royal School of Needlework affiliations. It also considers matters of policy such as bursaries to the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the future Governance of the Company. In addition, it approves recommendations for grants to charities. Liverymen who have at least five years in the Company since their clothing may apply for election to the Court and should seek advice from the Clerk.

Charities Supported

Since the last edition, the Company has made grants to the following charities:

The Annual RBL Poppy Appeal

St Mary le Bow Young Homeless

Henley YMCA

City of London Choir

Royal London Hospital, Children's Unit

Lord Mayor's Appeal (St John Ambulance/The Lord's Taverners)

Paralympics (Rowing)

Cure Parkinson's Trust

Children's Heart Federation

Epic Arts

Christ's Hospital (Necessitous Children's Fund)

New Court Assistant

Liveryman Glenn Start was elected to the Court of Assistants on 12 January.

Obituary

The Company regrets to inform Liverymen of the death of Cecil Heather (clothed Jan 1968).

New Liverymen



Oct 2008
Christopher Ratcliffe, Chartered Accountant from Christchurch, Dorset



Jan 2009
*Paul Cheslaw, Managing Director Communications Company from London
Christopher Longhurst, Financial Advisor from Tadworth, Surrey
Robert Booth – Managing Director Packaging Company from Derby
Timothy Pratt, Company Director property development from Derby*

Clerk's Notes

Livery Company Briefings are advertised on the annual social and civic events list. The briefings provide a short introduction to the work of the City of London Corporation, especially the relationship with Livery Companies and are aimed at all Liverymen, old and new, as well as wives, husbands and partners. Further details from the Clerk, from liverycourses@chandlers.ndonet.com or 0207 606 3591.

In future, where a Liveryman has an up to date email address, I will acknowledge applications for events by email. If you change your email, please remember to inform the Clerk at clerk@gswd.org.uk. Liverymen requiring a receipt should send a stamped addressed envelope.

Forthcoming Events

Please note that the April and October Dinners are NOT on a Monday. Please also note that the July event at Trinity House is a dinner this year and not a lunch. For up to date details please visit the Company's website at www.gswd.co.uk

18 Mar	Past Masters' Committee
8 April (Wed)	Court, Church Service and Master's Dinner Vintners' Hall
27 May	Ladies Court Dinner (Court only)
24 June	Election of the Sheriffs and lunch
6 July	Court and Dinner Trinity House
18 July	Fundraising Ball at the RAC, Pall Mall
11-13 Sept	Visit to Rheims area
29 Sep	Lord Mayor's Election and lunch
8 Oct (Thurs)	Court and Dinner Vintners' Hall
11 Nov	Visit to Old Bailey and supper
Late Nov/ early Dec	Banquet