



THE WYRE DRAWER

EDITION 22

SPRING 2012



The Master 2012-13 and His Wardens after the Installation Ceremony on 9th January in Skinners' Hall. Left to right: The Master Rodney Brody, First Warden Tim Fitzgerald-O'Connor, Second Warden Robin Hope, Third Warden Michael Powell and Fourth Warden Robert Lampitt.

Master's Message

It is simply an immense privilege to have been installed as the 281st Master of this great Company, and I can virtually sense all the previous occupiers of this illustrious office looking down and surveying my every move!

I chose this company originally because of my associated business links, and it is a particular desire of mine to attract new livery members with some connections, however tenuous, with Gold and Silver Wyre. We have thus formed a 'focus group', with the intention of raising our general profile, to forge new links with affiliated trades and organisations.

We have an exciting year ahead. We have already had a visit to Lords, where the Olympic archery will be held, and dined there in the iconic pavilion, and now we have both the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics in prospect. In June we have taken over a restaurant on the river to ensure a bird's eye view of the spectacular river pageant to celebrate the Jubilee. We also have an exciting five day visit to New York, followed by our charity dinner and dance at the RAC, Pall Mall, on 14th July. We will finish my year with a special tour of the Tower of London on 12th November.

My personal charity this year is for Mesothelioma research at St. Barts. Hospital. There is simply no cure for this disease at present, and the average life expectancy from the time of diagnosis is less than 2 years.

I look forward to a year that we will all enjoy, together with progress for our Company, both with new links and success with our charity ambitions.

Rodney Brody, JP
Master 2012/2013

EVENTS

NOT TO MISS

3 June

*Diamond Jubilee
River Pageant and
Lunch*

14 July

*Fundraising Dinner
Dance
RAC Pall Mall*

14 September

*Fundraising Dinner,
The Haven*

1 October

*Court and Dinner,
Trinity House*

12 November

*Visit to the Tower
of London*



President of Chelsea Football Club from 1980-1990.

He is a Magistrate in the City of London.

Autumn Court Dinner

The New Master

In the early '60s, Rodney Brody joined the family textile company after completing a business degree. The company produced various fashion accessories for clothing manufacturers in the UK and abroad. He was the Managing Director between 1972-1998; the company was awarded the Queen's Award for Export Services in 1984.

In 1998 he transferred his controlling interest in the family company and spent some time in property development. Then from 2003 – December 2008 he became the UK and European Head of Development for the Las Vegas Sands Corporation, one of the largest worldwide Hotel and Gaming companies.

He is currently negotiating with the Government of an Asian country to introduce investors with the aim of building a major Integrated Resort, including the country's first major casino.

He is interested in all sports, has been a member of the MCC since 1969 and was Vice



The Master 2011, his Wardens and the Beadle.

Vintners' Hall proved as ever a pleasing setting and the evening most enjoyable. We welcomed two new Freeman, Robert Andrews and Larry Haig.

We were delighted with the strong attendance and good company of our Service Affiliations; from The Royal Navy, Commander John Liversey CO of HMS VICTORIOUS, from the Army, Brigadier Mike Hickson Director of the RLC and Lt. Colonel Rick Davies CO Army School of Ammunition at Kineton and, from the RAF, Wing Commander Kevin Brookes OC 101 Squadron at Brize Norton and Squadron Leader Fergus Garwood OC Queen's Colour Squadron.

Also attending were the Masters and Clerks of the Plaisterers', Coachmakers' and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Companies, to all of whom we were delighted to return hospitality we have received during the year. One of the pleasures in any Master's year is to meet the other Livery Companies.

We were most grateful to our Guest Speaker, Deputy Philip Willoughby, a long serving Common Councillor and past Chief Commoner, who stood in at short notice and gave an entertaining insight into the duties of a Chief Commoner.

Vernon Knapper, Master 2011



The Master installs Robert Lampitt as Fourth Warden.

Lord Mayors Show



The Master and Wardens march with the Swiss Guilds

On a perfect morning on Saturday 12th November our Master together with the 1st, 3rd, 4th Wardens and our gallant Clerk had the privilege of parading in The Lord Mayors Show, with 250 Zurich Guild members and their wives, including 40 mounted Swiss Guild members riding horses borrowed from the Household Cavalry.

The Zurich Guilds had received a personal invitation from the Lord Mayor to march in the parade, reinforcing the ties that exist between the City of London and Zurich. Our participation was at the invitation of the Zurich Guild of Three Kings with whom we have a relationship which goes back some years and Liveryman Walter Isler, who is also a member of that Guild, was very much involved in the arrangements for the Swiss Guilds visit to London. They paraded in costumes as diverse as Roman legionaries, 18th and 19th century military uniforms and traditional Swiss dress. As we proceeded through the City we were greeted by very enthusiastic crowds – so much so that the Swiss commented on the wonderful reception they received from the people lining the streets. The enthusiasm may in part, of course, have been prompted by the chocolates widely distributed by the Swiss ladies as we marched. It was a truly wonderful experience.

Michael Powell

The Banquet

The return to Mansion House on the 9th December for the Banquet proved to be a popular choice and, with 344 attending, we were very nearly at maximum capacity.



The Master and his Wardens.



General view of the Banquet.

There was a real sense of occasion with the presence of the Lord Mayor, Alderman David Wootton, and The Sheriffs, with The City Marshal in attendance. The Guest Speaker, Sir Clive Martin, former Lord Mayor in the Millennium Year proposed the toast to the Company 'May it flourish root and branch', which it certainly did on the night. Other Important Guests were The Chief Commoner and The Swiss Ambassador.

We definitely had a Swiss flavour to the evening as we reciprocated hospitality to our associated Guild, the 'Zurich Guild of Three Kings'. The Master, Pius Schmid, and Guild members were colourfully dressed in their Guild Costumes. We made them welcome by playing the Secheslauten March, for which they always stand and clap in time to the music. I mentioned this to the Lord Mayor, who replied 'if you stand, I will stand and then they will all have to stan', and indeed they did – I believe a 'first' at Mansion House!

Vernon Knapper, Master 2011

Carol Service



The Master 2011 reads a lesson, in the lee of the Christmas tree.

This year's Carol Service was held on 6 December at our Livery Church, St James Garlickhythe, in conjunction with the Needleworkers' Company. A packed congregation from both Liveries joined in a traditional service of readings and carols, accompanied by the excellent resident choir and organist. The Honorary Chaplain of the Needleworkers, the Right Reverend Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark, together with our own Honorary Chaplain, the Reverend Gordon Warren, led the Prayers and Blessing, and the new Priest-in-charge at St James, the Reverend Guy Treweek, gave a thought-provoking address. Liverymen had been invited to donate presents to a disadvantaged children's appeal, which was well supported by both Liveries. The evening ended with both Companies enjoying a meal in a local restaurant.

Nick Sillitoe

Immediate Past Master's Overview

A major feature of the year has been the Company's contact with the Zurich Guilds and especially our associated Zurich Guild of Three Kings. The Master and Wardens enjoyed a splendid weekend in Zurich for the Sechselauten festival in April, as their guests.

During the summer we supported the Zurich Guilds in their response to an invitation to march in the Lord Mayor's Parade; we joined them with other Livery Companies in what proved to be a memorable November weekend of Guild and City fellowship. At the December Mansion House Banquet we further reciprocated hospitality to the Guild and the Swiss Ambassador.

The important work of the Focus Group continued during the year in concert with the Finance and Masters Committees and with the support of the Court, led to initial steps towards refocusing the Company, including the sponsorship of a prize for jewellery using gold and silver wire.

The Mistress and I hope the Company have enjoyed the social programme, including a visit to Dyers Hall for the Ladies Court Dinner and Stockholm for the Weekend away. My special thanks go to the Charity and Events Committee for their support with these and other events during the year.

I have endeavoured to follow my predecessors as Master in building goodwill and respect with other Livery Companies and our Service Affiliations and thank one and all within the Company for their support. I extend my best wishes to the New Master, Rodney Brody, for his year.

Vernon Knapper, Immediate Past Master

Mission to Seafarers



In December the Reverend Tom Heffer (Secretary General Mission to Seafarers) received a cheque (£3500), presented by the Master with the Wardens and Clerk in attendance.

Visit to Lords



The Master keeps Shane Warne on his side!

For the first social event of the year, the Master shared the magical atmosphere of Lords Cricket Ground with Liverymen and their guests. In two groups, the party of 56 was given a tour of the historic Pavilion taking in the world famous Long Room and the distinguished Rolls of Honour in the home changing room and then the museum. The guides shared many varied and interesting anecdotes, including the history of the mini urn containing the 'Ashes' for which the Australian and English teams battle every few years.

A few drinks and a convivial and enjoyable dinner followed. The master thanked all for attending and shared his enthusiasm for both the game and Lords by telling a few cricketing stories.

To conclude the evening a short film was shown, providing a further insight as to how famous players and aspiring youngsters view this cherished oasis.

A New Award



The Master and Elizaveta Gnatchenko (wearing her ring) flanked by Jean Scott-Moncrieff, Elizabeth Elvin and the Clerk.



The winning Design.

Over the course of the last 18 months, under Rodney Brody's chairmanship, the Focus Group has been looking at ways in which the GSWD could regain firmer ties with our trade and the use of gold and silver wire. A very significant step forward was made on Monday 5th March when, having sponsored the Goldsmiths Craft and Design Council's brochure and prize money, the Master presented a prize to the winning student in the category which employs specifically the innovative use of wire in production jewellery.

In early February Liverymen Liz Elvin and Jean Scott -Moncrieff represented the GSWD in judging the entries for our prize. Guided by their fellow judges - all industry professionals - they were unanimous in choosing a winning piece, an exciting index-finger ring made in silver and gold set with small gemstones. Elizaveta, training on the Getting Started Scheme run by the Goldsmiths' Company, with her work featured in magazines including Vogue, has agreed to be our guest for the Master's Dinner at Skinner's Hall on 16th April.

Golfing Society News

I am pleased to say we have recruited a few new members this year following a successful AGM in the autumn. We agreed to have more joint meetings with other companies and we have the Masons coming to Tandridge on 30th April and the Fletchers and Farmers coming to Denham on 21st June.

We also have our annual fixture against the RLC and the Carmen at Aldershot on 12th July followed by Captain's Day at Ashridge on 6th

September , and our closing Autumn meeting at Swinley Forest on 8th October.

We are delighted to have new members of whatever handicap so come and have some great days out with us.

John Edgcumbe

Company Affiliations

Royal Logistics Corps – Vauxhall Barracks, Didcot



First Warden, Rodney Brody, under expert instruction.



The visiting team.

Last year I spent a truly most memorable and inspirational day, together with a small group from our Livery, at Vauxhall Barracks in Didcot, the HQ of the operational end of the Bomb Disposal Unit.

It was a quite extraordinary experience, meeting some wonderfully brave young men and women, who have the constant challenge of battling against improvised explosive devices. It is a job of relentless pressure which requires intense concentration and courage.

Despite this, they were able to offer much time and care towards us, and very gracious

hospitality. What a credit they all are to the Royal Logistics Corps.

Rodney Brody – First Warden 2011

Royal Logistics Corps – Edgehill Dinner

The battle of Edgehill is celebrated each year by our friends in the RLC coinciding with its anniversary. The battlefield is within the grounds of the huge Kineton base. Among the dinner attendees are all the students on the Ammunition Technical Officers course which is the top course for those incredibly brave volunteers who seek to make their careers as ATOs. GSWD give a prize to the best performing student at the course graduation.

The splendid dinner hosted by Lt. Colonel Simon Hurst on 16th November was attended by the Master, Second and Third Wardens, Past Masters Brian Toye and James Simmons, our RLC liaison officer Major Ken Cross and the Clerk , and over the evening we were able to renew many old acquaintances and mix with students in what are always most convivial surroundings.

Robin Hope

HMS VICTORIOUS



Our Honorary Chaplain presents the award to the 'Man of the Boat'.

Last November the GSWD established the annual prize for the 'Man of the Boat' at HMS NEPTUNE, the submarine base in Scotland. The prize, a solid turned pewter tanker engraved with our coat of arms, is awarded to the rating onboard HMS VICTORIOUS whom the Commanding Officer considers to have done something exceptional in the previous year.

As Liverymen, we all have the opportunity of meeting either the Commanding Officer or his

1st Lieutenant at many of our dinners and luncheons. With this award we are now able to identify with a rating in the crew of the boat. Our Honorary Chaplain the Reverend Gordon Warren travelled to Scotland to award the prize on behalf of our Master and, as Honorary Chaplain Royal Navy, was asked by the Commanding officer to lead and preach at the worship after Ships Divisions.

Gordon Warren

101 Squadron



The party with the venerable VC10.

On a pleasant autumn day, the Master and Mistress, the RAF Liaison Officer and 24 Liverymen enjoyed a splendid visit to No 101 Squadron, based at RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire. One of our three affiliated RAF units, the Squadron operates the VC10 and was, at the time of visiting, operating in five operational roles, including supporting operations in Afghanistan, Libya and the Falkland Islands. This is impressive for an aircraft now nearing its 50th birthday!

We were very well hosted by Wing Commander Kevin Brookes, the Squadron Commander, and his excellent team. With plenty of time to crawl over the VC10, and an enormous C-17 Globemaster (gawping rather than crawling!) we chatted at length to Squadron members and, for some, flew the VC10 simulator over Kai Tak, the former international airport in Hong Kong, at which the Master excelled! All in all a good 'hands-on' day.

Air Commodore Paul Hughesdon

Queen's Colour Squadron



Lance Corporal Mallyon receives the Award.

The Master, Clerk and the RAF Liaison Officer were privileged to have lunch with Squadron Leader Fergus Garwood, the then commanding officer of the Queen's Colour Squadron (QCS) and his fellow officers. No ordinary lunch since, during the Squadron's tour of Public Duties, mounting guard at Buckingham Palace, St James' Palace and the Tower of London, it was held at St. James' Palace, the senior Palace of the Sovereign. The Officers' Mess holds a number of unique memorabilia, including one of the few paintings of Queen Victoria still depicted in a white dress, most being repainted in black after the death of Prince Albert.

In addition, the Liaison Officer, on behalf of the Master, presented our annual award to the best RAF Gunner on QCS, on the forecourt of Wellington Barracks, just prior to QCS 'Changing the Guard' at Buckingham Palace. Lance Corporal Mallyon was the worthy recipient after a magnificent year and was delighted to receive the certificate, tankard and cheque

We wish Fergus well as he completes a six month tour in Afghanistan and look forward to welcoming his replacement, Squadron Leader John Howard-Parr, to our table shortly.

Air Commodore Paul Hughesdon

Clerks Notes

July Dinner – Liverymen are always welcome to bring guests to the dinners and lunch. Young people, sons and daughters of liverymen are particularly welcome. In addition, as a trial, Liverymen will be allowed to bring their spouses to the July dinner at Skinners' Hall, so why not make it a family occasion!

Joining the Court – When a place becomes vacant on the Court, Liverymen with more than 5 years seniority as a Liveryman are eligible to be nominated for election to the Court. You will need to be proposed and seconded by two Court members. If you feel you have expertise and skills to contribute and you aspire one day to the Mastership, please consider the idea, bearing in mind that it takes at present between 8 and 14 years from joining the Court to becoming a Warden. Please seek the Clerk's advice.

Quarterage – Your quarterage payment (as appropriate) was due on 1st February by banker's order or direct transfer. Please check that your payment has been made.

New Admissions

Two new Court members were admitted as Assistants at the October Court. They are Reverend Gordon Warren, the Master's Honorary Chaplain and an Honorary Chaplain in the Royal Navy, and Mr. Nicholas Sillitoe, the Honorary Assistant Clerk.

New Liverymen admitted at the January Court: Mr. Laurence Haig and Mr. Robert Andrews.

Charities Supported

St. James Garlickhythe (*bells for affiliated City church*)
TS Barrosa Sea Cadets (*sail training for affiliated unit*)
St. John Ambulance Cadets Bexley Heath (*defibrillator for affiliated unit*)
Felix Fund (*Bomb disposal personnel*)
32 Squadron RAF Northolt (*RAF Benevolent Fund*)
Stuart Low Trust Islington (*mentally distressed*)
HSMP (*Hackney Schools*)
St Bart's and the London (*Lord Mayor's Charity 2012*)
Fine Cell Work (*prisoners' creative skills and wellbeing*)
Crisis (*London homeless*)
National Memorial Arboretum (*Combined Services memorial*)
Spitalfields Crypt Trust (*vulnerable and homeless adults*)
Toucan Employment (*employment assistance for the socially excluded*)

Obituaries

The Company regrets to inform Liverymen of the deaths of Ben Catt, formerly an Assistant on the Court, Patrick Adolph, Alec Harris and Tony Greene.

A Tribute

Past Master: Rodney Cyril Alban Fitzgerald MA Deputy MBE

The Court and Livery was sad to hear of the death of Past Master Rodney Fitzgerald, known to us all as Fitz.

He joined the Livery in April 1946 having gained an MA degree at Oxford and became Master of the Company in 1967. His keen interest in the City led him to be elected deputy for Bread Street Ward in 1983 and subsequently to the higher office of Sheriff.

He was appointed MBE in 2010 for services to the City. His business career was mainly with a firm of Lloyd's brokers, he was an underwriting member of Lloyds, but his interest in sport, especially cricket and rugby led him to develop charities to assist young people into sport, and a Foundation has been established in his memory. He was a member of the MCC.

In 1963 he married Madelaine who pre-deceased him in 1996. There were no children.

The Court and Livery mourn his loss and we will miss his wise counsel.

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