

COMPANY COMMENT

The Honourable Company of Freemen of the City of London of North America

December 2002

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From the Master

As we enter the new calendar year I realize that I am already three-quarters through my term of office as a Master of the Company. The theme for the year has been ‘fellowship’ and I am delighted to say that the high attendance at all events and the increase in new members is evidence of great fellowship amongst us all. Furthermore our fellowship with the City of London, a critical part of our *raison d’être*, is also increasing, with a record number of applications by members to become a Freeman of the City of London.

Some of our new members asked me to give them a succinct version of what the Company is about: -

From my point of view, we are to maintain a continuous link with the City of London and where possible to strengthen the linkages - commercial, social and personal between the Company, the City and North America. We should reflect the traditions of all Freeman of the City, including the code contained in the oath of allegiance, the ceremonies and rituals to be found within the Guilds and Livery Companies and in the history of the City itself.

We should support our charity and each other through meetings and social events and foster growth between ourselves and for the company.

In the early days of the Company, its activities were centered on the annual dinner event and the Company tended to meet only once or twice a year. It is a reflection of the present vibrancy of the Company that more than 80 people attended the charity event held in November, the 6th Company event in 2001. It is the hard work and dedication of the Court that enable such activities and the enthusiasm of the membership to embrace each other in fellowship to further the objectives of the company that creates its success. For that I thank you all and wish you the best in 2003.

Hugh Oddie

A Brief History of a City Livery Company – The Worshipful Company of Information Technologists

In this issue, we look at one of the most recent Livery Companies of the City – number 100 in the order of precedence. The Worshipful Company of Information Technologists was formed as the Company of Information Technologists (without grant of Livery) in 1986. Clearly, it was not purely the wisdom of the City that brought this about but the dedicated effort of a large group of Information Technologists following the inspiration – and one might expect some perspiration – of Alan Benjamin and Bernard Harty. Alan and Bernard made the first approach to the City early in the 1980’s. In 1989, the armorial bearings were granted by the Garter King of Arms. After demonstrating rapid growth of membership, the Company was granted full Livery Company status in 1992 and became the “Worshipful Company” at that time.

Being such a new Company, there are obviously no stories of apprentices fighting in the streets, halls being built, destroyed and rebuilt over the centuries. However, the history and activities of the Worshipful Company show the continuing relevance of the London Livery Companies and Guilds today.

The Worshipful Company was formed for the purpose of “promoting the IT profession; improving “education and training” in IT; and charitable activities. It clearly has the common objectives, with other Livery Companies, in bring together like-minded people and encouraging participation in, and support of the IT profession.

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Promoting the IT profession and the continuing education of Liverymen, Freemen and Apprentices is achieved by annual conferences, seminars focusing mainly on those that do not have access to IT due to homelessness or imprisonment, and by authoritative publications on key ethical and innovation issues.

The Worship Company meets its education and training objectives through a "Journeyman Scheme" of mentoring of young IT professionals by those with substantial experience in the IT field. This is complemented by the John Pinkerton Award, an annual prize awarded to a Journeyman who has shown the greatest progress in professional development.

The Hall

The Information Technologists Hall was officially opened on 20th September 2001 by the Lord Mayor and is located at 39a Bartholomew Close. The Hall is the first new Livery Hall established within the last 50 years. The Building itself is not new but dates back to the mid-18th century. Amongst its other former uses, it was a pub – The Rose and Crown – for a brief period in the 19th century.

The Hall is used for meetings of the many Worshipful Company panels and small project groups, as well as being able to host small conferences, seminars and receptions. It does not have a "Great Hall" and the Company uses the Halls of other Livery Companies for dinners and banquets. Bartholomew Close is close to Smithfield Market, and this location will be remembered by those who visited London on our 20th Anniversary trip. It is within a hundred metres of the Butchers' Hall. The Hall has further strengthened the ties between the Company, the wider Livery Movement and the City.

Association with the Honourable Company

At present there are no Members of the Honourable Company that are also Liverymen or Freemen in the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists, but a number of our members work in the Information Technology business. It is hoped that a linkage will be established between the two Companies in the coming years.

The Future

Being so new, and created to support such a new industry (certainly in terms of the majority of the Livery Companies and Guilds) the Worshipful Company, does not have to question where it can contribute. However, it is still built on the classic model of Community, Education and Charity. The IT Industry Ball in July was successful in raising £20,000 for charity in a program targeting raising £60,000 for the National Children's Home.

Another of their major charity efforts, is their "Carers On-line" service, which provides 24-hour web-based services offering advice, information and links to others facing similar challenges to unpaid care-givers.

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The Worshipful Company of Information Technologists is an exciting addition to the community of London Livery Companies, and joins with the other "new-industry" companies that have received their Grant of Arms in recent years. These include the Marketors, the World Traders, Arbitrators, Engineers, Environmental Cleaners, Fuellers, Scientific Instrument Makers, and Water Conservators. This growth of Livery Companies has helped bring renewed interest in and relevance of the great tradition of London Livery and Guild Companies.

This article was prepared for information published on the website of the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists (www.wcit.org.uk)

Events Report

Charity Beer Tasting at the Oland Specialty Beer Institute

On the 10th October, over 50 members and guests together with members of the British Canadian Chamber of Trade and Commerce, gathered at the Oland Specialty Beer Institute at 1183 King Street West in Toronto for a very entertaining (and potentially waist enhancing) evening. Oland's is a specialty brewing "college" where bartenders are taught the trick of the trade. Our group was taught how to pour a range of imported beers from the Belgian "Stella Artois" to good old English "Bass". We also enjoyed an excellent buffet provided by En Ville Catering. This was the Honourable Company's second "Beer Night" at Oland's and was considered to be even better than the first one held in 2001. The Oland staff, besides being informative and highly professional, were very friendly and helped to create an atmosphere of conviviality and fun. Prizes were given to people who answered their "skill-testing" questions. Dr. Martin Walmsley who holds a number of brewing patents and had a long-term association with the Upper Canada Brewing Company clearly had a significant advantage!!

Success at charity events is not only measured in terms of the personal satisfaction of those attending, but also in the funds raised for the charity. In this instance we clearly met our financial expectations with over \$1,500 being raised for the Honourable Company's Charity.

Charity Reception at the Royal Bank

The 40th Floor or the South Tower of the Royal Bank's headquarters in Toronto has one of the most spectacular views in any City in the world. Thanks to the good offices of one of our current court members, David Moorecroft, a charity reception was held there on 26th November.

Senior executives of the Bank joined over 60 members and their guests, including His Worship Gary Burroughs, the Lord Mayor of Niagara on the Lake, for the reception. Our guest of honour and featured speaker was the Honorable David Turnbull, the Associate Minister of Enterprise, Opportunity and Innovation in the Government of Ontario. David talked about the excellent business relationships between the UK and Canada, and especially with Ontario.

He emphasized that Canada is the UK's second largest trading partner, quite a distinction in view of the increasingly integrated economies of the European Economic Community. He expressed his keen interest in maintaining and expanding these close and mutually beneficial ties and welcomed the opportunity to support the Honourable Company in its efforts to sustain strong relationships with the City of London.

As is customary at our events, the food and hospitality were excellent, and the comradery and conversation stimulating. On this occasion we also had the incredible surroundings and superb views to add to our enjoyment.

For the Honourable Company's Charity, the event was the most beneficial to date, a spectacular \$2,300.

City Ceremonies – Election of the Lord Mayor

Brief history and current roles and responsibilities

The first recorded Mayor of London was Henry Fitz-Ailwyn 1189. Since then, some 700 men and one woman have over the centuries held the position of chief officer of the City of London.

The title 'Lord Mayor' is purely customary but of great age. In the Latin of the thirteenth century 'dominus major' is found, and in English 'Lord Mair' in 1414. By the sixteenth century the prefix 'Right Honourable' was in use.

The Lord Mayor has, throughout the centuries, played a vital role in the life of the City of London, and continues to do so today. In the City, the Lord Mayor ranks immediately after the sovereign and acts as the capital's host in Guildhall and Mansion House, his official residence. On behalf of the City and the nation, he carries out numerous engagements at home and abroad. Although in former years a person could become Lord Mayor as many times as the electorate would vote him in, nowadays one year of such demanding activity is considered enough.

As head of the Corporation of London, the Lord Mayor presides over its governing bodies - the Court of Aldermen and the Court of Common Council. He is Chief Magistrate of the City of London, Admiral of the Port of London, Chancellor of City University and President or Patron of many other civic and charitable organizations.

He also has a much wider business role - working for Britain as a whole, supporting and promoting the world's leading international financial centre, the City of London, both at home and abroad. His position as a trusted spokesman for the business community is enhanced by the entirely apolitical nature of his office.

Debunking an old myth

Probably the most famous of all Lord Mayors is Dick Whittington, who held office three times, in 1397, 1406 and 1419. Contrary to popular belief, Dick Whittington was not

a poor, ill-treated orphan who managed against all the odds to work his way up to Lord Mayor. Coming from a wealthy family, Richard Whittington had a successful business and civic career before he became Lord Mayor. As for the black cat that supposedly helped him found his fortune by ridding the King of the Barbary Coast of a plague of rats, while no-one is quite sure how this part of the myth grew. The fact is that Dick Whittington carved out a successful business career in a very practical way as a mercer (dealer in costly fabrics such as silk), wool merchant and royal financier.

Elections

The right of citizens to elect their own Mayor dates from the Charter granted by King John to the City in 1215, and in the same year Magna Carta specified that the City would retain all its ancient liberties. The election of Lord Mayor is held at the end of September each year in the Great Hall of Guildhall. The assembly, known as Common Hall, consists of all liverymen of at least one year's standing together with certain high officers of the City. All aldermen who have served the office of sheriff and who have not already been Lord Mayor are eligible.

When the process of the election of Lord Mayor was introduced in the 14th Century, it was the only jurisdiction in which the highest official was elected by the professional people of the community – the Freemen (as opposed to appointment by a local Lord), and so constituted the earliest instance of democracy

It is interesting that, while the election of council members is being updated, the election of Sheriffs and Lord Mayor is not unchanged and retains the inconsistency that these high officials are elected by the Freemen of the City. The wider electorate have no rights in their election. This means that any Freeman can vote regardless of their domicile and employment. However, as candidates must already be Aldermen, and are generally chosen by a show of hands in Common Hall, this may well be a satisfactory efficiency.

On the day after the Lord Mayor is sworn into Office, he or she is introduced to the people of the City in the Lord Mayors Show. The history of the Show has been covered in an article in Issue 2 / 2002 – the June Issue.

Election Reform

The City of London (Ward Elections) Bill, which sets up new processes for City Elections, was given final approval by the House of Lords on 29 October 2002.

The passing of the Bill in the House of Lords – the Bill was first presented to Parliament in November 1998 - means that the new electoral system is likely to be finally approved by the House of Commons and receive Royal Assent shortly. In the future, elections will be far more representative of the business community in the City.

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The old electoral system, which has remained unchanged since the 1850s, meant that only partnerships and business owners were entitled to vote. Limited companies, who are now responsible of a majority of employment in the City, had no vote - a clear failure to represent the modern make-up of the City.

Under the new system, the business vote will increase by 16,000 to 32,000. Previously disenfranchised firms will now be entitled to nominate voters, in addition to those already included in the business vote, and will be required to choose these voters in a clear and representative fashion. The Bill also removes other anomalies that have developed over time as the City has expanded and our democratic systems have become increasingly representative of all relevant interests.

In addition to the Bill, other changes to reform the system have already been carried out. These have included the introduction of periodic re-elections (at least once every six years) for the Corporation's 25 Aldermen (replacing the previous system of one election until retirement at the age of 70), a reduction in the number of members and a comprehensive review of the 25 electoral wards' boundaries, to protect the position of residents in the mainly residential wards within the City.

New Members

The Court are pleased to announce the admission of a number of new Members. These are:

Andrew Cox
Linda LeBourdais
Krystina Walko

Dr. Colin Dodds
Major Sean Pollock

Dr. Colin Dodds

Colin is the President of St. Mary's University, Halifax, NS. Born in England, he obtained a B.A. through the Open University in the UK and a B.Sc in Economics at Hull University before obtaining his M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics at Sheffield University. He met and married his wife, Carol, in the UK. After a brief academic appointment as a visiting associate professor at McMaster University, Colin and Carol with their children James and Elizabeth decided to move to St. Mary's University in 1982.

His career at St. Mary's has been meteoric from Chair of the Finance and Management Science Department, to Director of the MBA program in his first two years. In 1987 he was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, then in 1991 he was named VP Academic and Research. In January 2000 he was acclaimed President.

Both Colin and Carol are very active members of the Halifax and area community as well as retaining strong connections to "things British". Carol is currently President of the St. George's Society of Halifax and is Vice Principal

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of the Inglis Street School, while Colin has become an enthusiastic attendee of the East Coast Annual Dinner. The Company is proud and honoured to welcome Colin into membership of the Honourable Company and we look forward to assisting him obtain the Freedom of the City.

Linda LeBourdais

A Public Relations and Marketing professional, Linda brings a wide range of skills and experience from a rather eclectic career, in the private, public and not-for profit sectors. Her specific areas of expertise include media relations, event management, new business introductions and government affairs. Linda began her career in the fashion and retail sectors producing shows, commentating and writing about fashion, for The Bay, Dylex Diversified and major regional shopping centres, across the Greater Toronto Area.

As a member of the Ontario Legislature for three years, Linda also served as Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier of Ontario, Advocate for the Clothing and Apparel Industry, for the government of Ontario and Chair of the Ombudsman's Committee, during her term in government.

In addition, she served as Executive Director, for a national not-for-profit organization, dealing with education and awareness, on the issue of child protection.

As a business entrepreneur Linda's clients have included Wendy's Restaurants of Canada, the Canadian Marketing Association, Speakers Forum, Trillium Talent Resource Group, the Heart & Stoke Foundation of Ontario, business author Ron Knowles (Senior Partner Western Management), North American Expositions, Riviera Finance and the Amberdon Group

Major Sean Pollock

Sean was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland and after school, he first served in the RAF and later with the RCAF, attaining the rank of Major. During this period, he became a friend of Captain G. Ray Gibson, our Founding Master.

After his extensive military career, he joined the Federal Government and served in a number of distinguished roles. He retired from Government service in 1996. Sean has recently become an enthusiast for the Honourable Company and is a most welcome addition to our growing number of Members.

Krystina Walko

A true generalist with wide-ranging skills in communications, government relations, policy development, research and project management, Krystina has had a career which spans work in the federal, provincial and municipal arenas in both the political sphere in government and in opposition and in the bureaucracy. She has also worked as a communications advisor in a not-for-profit community agency called Senior Link that entailed close contact with the seniors' constituency for which she was an advocate as well as provided government relations services at the Ontario Hospital Association.

Krystina has most recently worked as Public Policy Development Manager at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, during which time she became one co-author of a definitive paper on harm reduction in addiction policy. She is currently providing project management direction to a number of reform initiatives being undertaken at the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, while offering consulting services to other clients.

Upcoming events

Annual General Meeting and Dinner

The Albany Club
91 King Street East
Toronto, ON

9th May 2003
Black Tie
Reception 6.30 pm
Dinner 7.30 pm
\$70.00_

Members in the News

One of our staunchest members, Sir Paul Newall, has provided advice that will be useful to all Lord Mayors. He was Lord Mayor in 1993/94. In his comments, he says “ I would like to thank the Liveries for continually pushing me forward when I was Lord Mayor”. One of the less formal surprises he faced was fencing with the Hungarian Olympic Fencing Champion. A casual remark during his visit to Budapest that he was a keen fencer, resulted in his Hungarian aides arranging an impromptu bout – against one of the best fencers in history.

His message to his successors is “be prepared for anything”. During his visit to Toronto, where some of his events we co-organized by the Honourable company, he was giving a speech to the Empire Club that was being broadcast live. At the end of the speech, a Canadian reporter was posed the question “I have three words for you Sir Paul, ‘Can Lloyds survive’”. At this time Lloyds was experiencing serious financial difficulties. Flashing in his mind were front-page headlines such as “Lord Mayor seals British Institutions Doom” and “England on Brink of Financial Collapse”. Having collected his thoughts with a slow count to ten, he replied as briefly as the reporters question “ I have three simple words in answer to your question, ‘We Shall See’”.

Being Lord Mayor was a hard job that requires a great deal of energy and the livery Companies respected this. They supported me and kept pushing me to achieve”. His three key piece of advice are; keep smiling; be grateful for the support you get; and learn how to count to ten slowly and often.

Company Website

The Honourable Company refers members and friends to the Company Website, which carries information about the Company and its activities. Our calendar of events and this newsletter, together with membership information, our History and other useful links are provided for your convenience. The Membership Form for the Honourable Company can be downloaded in Adobe Acrobat format under “How to become a Member”

The site address is www.freemenlondon.org. We welcome your comments and your ideas for the addition of useful information, and hope that we can generate a valuable dialogue between Freeman, especially amongst our members, through this site.

Communications with your Company

Honorary Clerk

Most matters concerning the Honourable Company (except membership) should be addressed to the Honorary Clerk.

His address is:

Martin F. Walmsley
250 Heath Street West, Suite 1205
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Membership Secretary

For the membership, main point of contact with the Honourable Company is through the Membership Secretary, although most information about membership is available on the Honourable Company's website:

www.freemenlondon.org.

His address is:

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Local Representatives:

East Coast Chapter

The East Coast Chapter Clerk is:

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West Coast Chapter:

This position is currently unfilled. Anyone who would like to volunteer should contact the Clerk for information.

London Clerk

Our London Clerk, Godfrey Jacobs, represents the Company in the City.

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