



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

*35th Annual General Meeting*

**Agenda**

1. Call to order
2. Declaration re constitution of the Meeting
3. Motion to approve Agenda
4. Appointment of scrutineers
5. Motion to permit the Chair to vary order of Agenda
6. Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting held on April 23, 2013
7. Matters arising
8. Master's Report
9. Hon Clerk's Report
10. Hon Treasurer's Report
11. Committee Reports (Communications, Events, Membership and Charitable Trust)
12. Enquiries by Members
13. Approval of actions of the Court during the year

14. Election of the Court for the coming year

Nominations from the floor of the Annual General Meeting may be made for Court members only. Such nominations must be in writing signed by the nominee, the mover and seconder and be in the hands of the Master or Secretary prior to the meeting and each of the signatories must also be present at the meeting.

15. New business

16. Termination

# **Honourable Company of Freeman of the City of London of North America**

## **Minutes of 34rd Annual General Meeting**

**Held in the Performing Arts Lodge, Toronto**

**Wednesday April 23, 2013 at 6:00 pm**

### **1.13 Call to Order**

The Master, Ken Foxcroft, welcomed Freeman and their guests to this, the 33rd Annual General Meeting of the Honourable Company.

### **2.13 Declaration re Constitution of the Meeting**

The Constitution of the Honourable Company states that "The Annual General Meeting of Members shall take place annually, generally at the same time as the Annual Dinner when the Master will present a report on behalf of the Court".

There being more than 10 members present the Meeting was therefore duly constituted. Frances Sommerville will act as secretary to the meeting.

### **3.13 Motion to approve the agenda**

The motion was approved without dissent.

Proposer Roger McMillan, seconder Tom O'Carroll.

**CARRIED**

### **4.13 Appointment of Scrutineers**

The By-Laws authorize the appointment of scrutineers and two volunteers were nominated to so act.

John Smith and John Lawer

Proposed Ken Foxcroft, seconded John Bishop

**CARRIED**

### **5.13 Motion to permit the Chair to vary the order of Agenda**

Proposer Ken Foxcroft, seconder John Welch

**CARRIED**

### **6.13 Western University Presentation**

Michael Green introduced our Guest Speaker Dr. Julie McMullin, Vice-Provost and Associate Dean, Social Science who spoke on the importance of the Honourable Company's support to international student scholarships. Michael also introduced Ms. Carole Stinson, Executive Director, Development Programs, Ms. Veronica Stoiber, Director of Donor Relations and Stewardship and Ms Susan Rhuman Donor Relations and Stewardship.

Michael Green thanked the Dean following the presentation and confirm the Company's commitment for another 4 years.

### **7.13 Minutes of the 33rd Annual General Meeting**

The minutes were approved without dissent.

Proposer Michael Green, seconder John Welch **CARRIED**

### **8.13 Matters arising**

The Master thanked the Court for their support during his tenure.

### **9.13 The Master's Report**

Appended hereto.

### **10.13 Hon. Clerk's report**

The Court was very active in 2012/2013. Meetings of the Court were held on:

June 25, 2012

August 3, 2012

November 25, 2012

February 5, 2013

April 16. 2013

A quorum was present at each meeting. Minutes have been approved for all meetings but the April 16 meeting.

The nominating committee, chaired by Past Master Michael Green, presented a slate of officers for 2013/2014 to the Court for their approval. The slate will be presented to the Annual General Meeting for discussion and ratification.

The affairs of the Honourable Company are in good order.

### **11.13 Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer reported that the Company remains solvent.

The Financial Reports of the Honourable Company of Freemen of the City of London of North America for the period April 2012 to March 31, 2013, previously presented to, and approved by the Court, be accepted and approved.

Proposer John Smith, seconder Tom O'Carroll **CARRIED**

## **12.13 Committee Reports**

### **1. Communications**

During the period two Company Comments were produced, May 2012 and November 2012.

Due to the number of events 11 promotional pieces were produced for the Web Page and for general distribution to members. These ranged from Meet the Court, Victoria Day High Tea, Whiskey Tasting and the upcoming AGM and Annual Dinner. Our Web Master produced all quickly and most efficiently.

### **2. Events**

John Welsh reported that 4 events were held during the fiscal year, two of which were the Annual Dinner and Meet the Court. Appreciatively both these popular events continue to be well attended by members and their guests. We look forward to our members continued participation and support in the coming year.

In September of 2012 members and guests supported by the BCCTC and the Royal-Over-Seas League boarded the Credit Valley Explorer train for a luncheon excursion through the picturesque Forks of the Credit River Valley. Given the feed back from all participants the outing was deemed a great success.

In February members and guests attended a whisky tasting of the Macallan Distillery hosted by the British Consul General at his residence. The Scotch Ambassador from MaCallan's treated the attendees to a broad and diversified selection of single malts that appealed to a cross section of individual tastes. The evening's activities were well received by all the participants.

A fifth event, an English tea, was scheduled but regrettably was cancelled due to conflicts.

The events presented the opportunity to raise funds for the charity and our commitment to the scholarship fund created at the University of Western Ontario enabling a student from any academic discipline to study for a year in London, UK. We thank all those members and guest who generally support this endeavour.

### **3. Membership**

Tom O'Carroll reported that the total membership in The Honourable Company now stands at 107 and 13 life members. Membership renewal numbers are awaited to confirm these figures.

We have three new members being presented to the court today and are awaiting the completion of applications for two additional individuals. Once verified, they will be submitted to Neil Purcell to take forward.

We encourage members to become Freemen of the City of London, which requires attendance at the Chamberlain's Court, Guild Hall, London for the Freedom Ceremony. The Freedom Ceremony is a very special occasion and may be attended by family and friends.

#### **4. Charitable Trust**

Michael Green presented the report of the Charity which continues to progress in a most exemplary manner. You have heard the report of the Hon. Treasurer that confirms our financial condition being healthy with adequate resources to meet our contractual commitments. In this regard I and my fellow trustees extend grateful thanks to all donors and recognize the contributions of the Events Co Chairs for their fund raising efforts over the past year. However I would nevertheless be remiss if I did not emphasize the importance of member efforts to inform potential donors and our new and existing membership of the need for additional financial contributions to ensure on-going growth in our charity account.

I am pleased to inform you that our partnership with Western University has proven to be most successful over the past few years with a renewal of our commitment with the university last year to provide funding for another 4 years with an option for a 5th year subject to mutual agreement. Students who have and are receiving donation support for their studies in London U.K. all speak highly of their experiences.

I am pleased that Dr. Julie McMullen agreed to address our Annual General Meeting, an award winning researcher Julie McMullen will be speaking to us regarding the importance of internationalization at Western and how the support of The Hon. Company of Freemen of the City of London Scholarship enhances the University's continuing priority of providing the "best student experience".

The Master called for the adoption of the reports, which was seconded by John Bishop.

#### **CARRIED**

##### **13.13 Enquiries by Members**

There were no enquiries by members

##### **14.13 Approval of the actions by the Court during the year 2012/2013**

That the actions of the Court undertaken on behalf of the Company during the year ending March 31, 2013, as recorded in the minutes of its meetings and in the Annual Report be and the same are hereby ratified, confirmed and approved.

Proposed by Ken Foxcroft, seconded by John Lawer **CARRIED**

### **15.13 Election of Officers and members of the Court for the coming year 2012/2013**

The Nominating Committee consists of 3 past Masters, the most recent Michael Green, serving as Chair.

The slate for 2012/2013 is recommended as follows:

Master Frances Sommerville

Deputy Master John Welch

Immediate Past Master Ken Foxcroft

Honorary Clerk John Welch

Treasurer Roger McMillan

Wardens Rebecca Bartlett-Jones, John Bishop, Michael Green, Ishrani Jaikaran, Norman Morris, Tom O'Carroll

City and Guildhall Liaison Neil Purcell

London Clerk Ashley Prime

All have agreed to serve.

Proposed John Bishop, seconder John Lawer **CARRIED**

### **16.13 New Business**

There was no new business.

### **17.14 Termination**

The meeting was terminated at 7:15 pm.

Proposer John Bishop, seconder Norman Morris **CARRIED**

**Frances Sommerville**

**Hon. Secretary**

## MASTER'S REPORT 2014

Welcome to the Honourable Company's 35th Annual General Meeting.

Following the excellent Annual Dinner last year a number of members of the Honourable Company visited Ottawa to pay respects to a long forgotten hero and great statesman, Sir Cecil Spring Rice, the British Ambassador to the United States from 1912 to 1918. He continues to contribute to our spirits even today at virtually every major gathering of British people wherever they are in the world though the lyrics he wrote for the patriotic hymn "I Vow to Thee My Country". The occasion was the unveiling of a plaque honouring Sir Cecil sponsored by The Honourable Company in historic Beechwood cemetery.

Sir Cecil left his post as Britain's Ambassador to Sweden in 1912, to take up the position of Britain's Ambassador to the United States of America. His major task in the US was to influence the Government of Woodrow Wilson in abandoning their neutrality and joining Britain in their war against Germany. He was successful in this mission but it took an emotional and physical toll on him and due to his illness he was recalled to Great Britain in 1918. He visited Ottawa on his way home but, unfortunately, died in Rideau Hall home of the Duke of Devonshire then Canada's Governor General and was buried in Beechwood Cemetery.

Sir Cecil's grave was discovered in terrible condition by Ashley Prime UK's Deputy Consul General and a Warden of our Court who decided to do research into the famous hymn "I Vow to Thee My Country" and learned that in 1912 Sir Cecil had penned the words. Later, in 1921, Gustav Holtz adapted his composition of Jupiter in his Planet Suite to Sir Cecil's words. Ashley was so taken with this story that he embarked on a programme to recognize Sir Cecil and came to the Honourable Company for support. In turn, the Court agreed to fund a plaque in memory of Sir Cecil to reside close to his grave.

At the ceremony on June 7th some of the remaining family of Sir Cecil, his granddaughter Ms. Caroline Kenny and three others came from England. After Ms Kenny unveiled the plaque, the assembled joined in with singer Kelly Sloan to sing the hymn "I Vow to Thee My Country"

Following the ceremony, all were invited back to the High Commissioner's home "Earnscliffe" for a lunch reception. The event included both television and press



coverage and the commissioning of a short video that can be seen on the Honourable Company's website.

In June a New Member's night and meet the new Court was held at the home of the British Consul General and hosted by Ashley Prime. The new members of the Court were introduced and I presented membership certificates and pins to 11 members.

Tom O'Carroll, Membership Chair, has done a great job of recruiting new members and streamlining the process of application through Neil Purcell for the Freedom Ceremony in City of London.

John Welch the Company Clerk and has kept the Company's affairs in good order and Ishrani Jackaran, the Events Chair, organized an excellent event in February. This Beer Tasting was hosted by our member John Sleeman who introduced the Company to 4 different beers. He talked about these beers and gave a very interesting history of Sleeman Breweries. The event was very successful and raised funds for the Company's scholarship fund at Western University.

Roger MacMillan the Honorary Treasurer has kept the Company's finances in good order.

Past Master Ken Foxcroft has chaired the Company's Charitable Trust maintaining an excellent and strong relationship with Western University where our Scholarship fund has been extended for a further five years, helped promising students to enhance their education experience in London England.

Ashley Prime has taken up his very important duties as the Company's Clerk in London. He has been busy strengthening our bonds with the Company of Clerks and has received his Clerk's Jewel. He has already greatly increased the profile of the Freemen of North American in London and will continue this focus. He currently is continuing his diplomatic career with the Foreign Office in London and will also assist members going to London to receive their Freedom of the City.

John Bishop continues to be a valuable member of your Court using his long experience to turn his hands to many important jobs. Neil Purcell has continued on as our London Liaison assisting members to secure their Freedom of the City of London. Norman Morris as your Communications Chair has kept us all advised of our events.

I have had a most enjoyable year as your Master and am confident of the strength of the Company as I hand the reigns to your new Master John Welch. I am honoured to continue working with your new court in the capacity of Past Master and Chair of the Charitable Trust. I want to end by thanking everyone for their kindness to me personally as only the second woman to be Master and for your support of the Company and the work we do.

Frances Sommerville

## **HONOURABLE CLERK'S REPORT**

### **MEETINGS OF THE COURT**

The Court met 4 times during 2013/2014. Meetings of the Court were held on:

May 29, 2013

August 14, 2013

November 20, 2013

March 25, 2014

The February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting was reschedule due to inclement weather.

A quorum was present at each meeting. Minutes were approved for all meetings. The nominating committee, chaired by Past Master, Ken Foxcroft, presented a slate of officers for 2014/2015 to the Court for their approval. This approved slate will be presented to the Annual General Meeting for discussion and final approval

The affairs of the Honourable Company are in good order.

John Welch

## HONOURABLE TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Report

April 15, 2014

Report for AGM Meeting

Of The Honourable Company of Freeman of the City of London of North America  
For the year ending March 31, 2014

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1. The Financials for the year ending March 31, 2014 have been manually produced from bank statements and we have shown a good surplus as of the year-end. There are a couple of outstanding invoices to be paid attributable to the year-end 2014 but not material.
2. All the events for 2013-2014 were successful and all contributed to the bottom line. The Annual Dinner of course still trended to a breakeven or a small surplus.
3. In the following weeks, I will meet with Past Master Ken Foxcroft to put the accounting system in place to provide more detailed reports for each event to facilitate a planning meeting.

This concludes my year end report.

Roger McMillan  
Treasurer.

## **COMMUNICATIONS REPORT 2013-2014**

During this period TWO “ Company Comments “ were produced, summer 2013 & Spring 2014. Both were well received.

In addition a number of “ promotional email blasts & web page updates“ were produced, which included; the Beer Tasting, AGM, Gala Dinner, etc. These were produced quickly and efficiently by our Web Master, Nick Hooper, for whom I have the highest regard and great appreciation for his help.

In conclusion, arrangements were made to promote appropriate events via the BCCTC. Their Executive Director, Idalia Obregon, ensured that they were added to their own list of over 3,000 names for distribution. In addition, notices were also shared with The St. George’s Society and The Royal Overseas League, Ontario Branch.

Norman. P. J. Morris  
Communications Chair.

## EVENTS CHAIR REPORT 2013/2014

During the previous fiscal year the Honourable Company held 3 events.

The Annual Dinner was held at the National Club. Our Speaker Mr. R. H. Thomson spoke about his current project, a multi-nation WW1 Centenary presentation, which was well received by members and guests. The event was deemed to be a great success.

The AGM was held at the Performing Arts Lodge. We thank the members who attended and look forward to our members continuing participation and support in the coming year.

On February 11<sup>th</sup> a beer tasting was held at the Performing Arts Lodge on The Esplanade. 15 Freemen and guests, in total 54 attendees, attended. John Sleeman was our host and introduced four beers produced by his Brewery. Participants donated to our raffle and silent auction with gifts generously donated by members and friends. By all accounts this was another successful Freemen event and raised over \$2,000.00 for the Company and its Charity.

A fourth event was planned for November 2013; a Guy Fawkes evening at Fort York however regrettable this event was cancelled due to timing and budgets.

The events present the opportunity to raise funds for the charity and our commitment to the scholarship fund created at the University of Western Ontario enabling a student from any academic discipline to study for a year in London, UK. We thank all those members and guests who generously support this endeavour.

Ishrani Jaikaran  
Events Chair

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT 2013-2014**

During the 2013-2014 fiscal year we were delighted to welcome 3 new members to The Honourable Company.

The Honourable Company of Freemen of the City of London of North America currently stands at 123 members, of which 13 are life members.

We have had one member who has informed us that he will not be renewing during the 2013 – 2014 period.

The dues and Quarterage will continue from May 1, 2014 to be \$150.00 for the first year of joining, which includes the initiation fee and an annual Quarterage of \$85.00.

Going forward, those proposing or seconding new members would be requested to include a brief summary of their knowledge of the individual.

We encourage members to become Freemen of the City of London, which requires attendance at the Chamberlain's Court, Guild Hall, London for the Freedom Ceremony. The Freedom Ceremony is a very special occasion and may be attended by family and friends.

Those individuals making application for the Freedom of the City of London will be required to attend personally, where possible, a brief interview with representatives of the Court for The Honourable Company of Freemen of the City of London of North America.

The following members of The Honourable Company became members of a Livery Company:

1. Ken Foxcroft, The Worshipful Company of International Bankers.
2. John Sleeman, The Worshipful Company of Brewers.
3. John Smith, The Worshipful Company of International Bankers and Capt.

Thomas J. O' Carroll  
Membership Chair

## **CHARITABLE TRUST REPORT - 2013/2014.**

Charity and support of the local community have always been long traditions with the London Livery Companies. Many companies focus on Education as their charities of choice either by means of bursaries, scholarships or actually building and supporting their own private schools, for example The Honourable Company of Haberdashers founded Haberdashers Aske's school in Hertfordshire England in 1690 and still provides financial support and scholarships to the school.

In keeping with his long tradition, your Company decided to form a charitable Trust that would also focus its giving towards education. In this regard, Past Masters Martin Walmsley and Michael Charles (both educators). Built a strong relationship with the University of Western Ontario (Western University) designing a tailor made student/study support programme for our Charitable Trust. This programme that started off in 2006 with a \$25,000.00 pledge (\$5,000.00 per year for 5 years) is intended to provide financial support to Western University Students who desire to study in the City of London. This pledge was followed up with a second pledge of \$20,000.00 (\$5,000 per year for 4 years). To date 5 Western Students have availed themselves of our scholarship programme to study at City University in London.

Initially Western University only had an exchange agreement with City University in London, England for studies in their department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences (Dan programme), This limited choice of programme discouraged many students of taking advantage of our scholarships. But, this year Western expanded its exchange programme to include Kings College in London. King's College will offer exchange programmes in all of their 10 academic departments to Western University students thus increasing the appeal to students to study in London.

We therefore see a greater demand for Our Company's scholarship programme. Perhaps due to the course limitations at City University, no Western Students elected to study in London in 2013. Your Company has therefore agreed to fund 2 students in our 2014/2015 fiscal year. Our colleagues at Western University are confident that the inclusion of King's college in their exchange programme will generate greater interest on behalf of their students to study in London and take advantage of our scholarships. I urge members of our Company to support our Charitable Trust via donations with your Quarterage and by attending our Charitable Trust Social events.



In closing I would like to thank past Masters Michael Green and John Bishop For acting as Trustees of your Charitable Trust for the past year and our friends in the Development Department at Western University for helping us advertise our Scholarship programme and helping to select students who will benefit from our scholarships to help with their studies in London.

Ken Foxcroft.

Chair of the Charitable Trust...

## **THE HONOURABLE COMPANY'S LONDON CLERK**

I gave a short presentation to the Clerks of the London Livery companies on 24 March at the Annual General Meeting of the Freedom at Ironmongers Hall. I gave a short potted history of the North American Freeman, who we were, what we did and how big the company was. I also mentioned the Court. There were 85 companies represented at the AGM and dinner.

Ashley Prime

## PROPOSED COURT FOR 2014-2015

Master  
Deputy Master  
Immediate Past Master  
Treasurer  
Clerk

John Welch  
Tom O'Carroll  
Frances Sommerville  
Roger McMillan  
Tom O'Carroll

Wardens

Ken Foxcroft  
Michael Green  
John Bishop  
Norman Morris  
Ishrani Jaikaran  
Bill Motley  
Peter Reed

Ray Gibson (Member Emeritus)

Charitable Trust  
& Nominating Committee

Frances Sommerville  
Ken Foxcroft  
Michael Green

Ex Officio:  
City and Guildhall Liaison  
London Clerk  
US Liaison  
Loyal Society Liaison

Neil Purcell  
Ashley Prime  
Peter Hermant  
Rebecca Bartlett-Jones