

NEWSLETTER



The Worshipful
Company of
Arbitrators

March 2011

www.arbitratorscompany.org



Kay Linnell – Master

Recent Events

BRICK LANE MUSIC HALL

A hardy group overcame snow and some of the worst of winter weather to attend the pre-Christmas outing. The group enjoyed a substantial meal in good company followed by an adult pantomime. 'Mother Goosed' was delivered by the actors of the Brick Lane Music Hall in a lively and original performance with great sing-a-long tunes full of double entendre and innuendo. In all an unforgettable evening.

MANSION HOUSE BANQUET

With the kind permission of the Lord Mayor, the Company once again held its Annual Banquet at Mansion House on 26th January 2011. The Annual Banquet is, for many Members, the highlight of the Company's year. The Lord Mayor was most ably represented by (*Cont'd*)

FROM THE MASTER'S DESK

Imagine, if you can, being handed the tiller of an ocean going yacht at the start of an international race representing your country. Every move is the culmination of the effort of every crewman focussed on a common objective far away on the horizon. That is a little bit like taking the helm of a Livery Company as Master for one year. You and the Liverymen, the heart and crew of the Livery are on board together. What we achieve as a Company is totally dependent on how much each of us is prepared to roll up our sleeves and get involved. Our Company punches above its weight in the modern City of London because dispute resolution in an environment of trust is important in international trade. If we are to continue these achievements we need to make a significant effort to grow the resources of our Company not just through donations of time and funds but by widening the membership of the Livery across all the Dispute Resolution professions.

These are challenges I would like every Liveryman to think about. There are opportunities within our current activities to give time and funds and if we are fortunate enough to be granted a Royal Charter then these will increase as we adopt a new constitution. For those Liverymen not based in the UK there are still financial and electronic ways in which we need your support – is you are willing and available to give back something. If you are based in the UK please support our events by attending them, recruiting more members and volunteering with our Court Assistants to develop activities and a structure that is appropriate for our Company's role in the years ahead. To complete my opening analogy I will tell you that it is lonely on the bridge in the middle of the night although I've only been here a dog watch but it is much better knowing that there is a trusty and reliable crew sleeping below. All ready and eager to help us achieve that point we are focussing on that point on the far horizon, just waiting for the cry "all hands on deck".

The Company's Charity

Support for the charitable works of the Company is a key responsibility of all Freemen and Liverymen. The Charity was established by the Company to provide help for members of the Company who fall into financial difficulty and to support education and other charitable purposes. In the last year the Charity made awards of over £9,000. Beneficiaries include the Lord Mayor's Appeal, the UK Mediation Skills Competition, bursaries at King Edwards School, Witley, Queen Mary College and the Guildhall School of Music as well as various prizes.

If you are not already a donor to the Charitable Trust, or even if you are, this is a good time to review your personal commitment to this important aspect of the life of the Company. Our individual circumstances vary but most members of the Company should be able to find at least £10 a month then with *Gift Aid* tax recovery this would give our Charity additional income of over £40,000 a year. This year the Master has made the Company's Charity her charity for the year. A standing order form and a *Gift Aid* declaration accompany this Newsletter – fill them in and post them to the Clerk (address overleaf) now.

MANSION HOUSE BANQUET

(Cont'd) Alderman and Sheriff Fiona Woolf. The evening was rounded off by a splendid contribution from Sir Nigel Davis who as a sitting Justice of the High Court related a number of excellent anecdotes that proved that Judges are human after all!

Don't miss:

THE UNITED GUILDS' SERVICE

Since the troubled times of World War II the Livery Companies of the City have joined together at St Paul's Cathedral for the annual United Guilds' Service. Today the event is one of the most colourful in the City. After the Service there is an informal luncheon at the Plaisters' Hall in London Wall. For more details download the flyer on the Company website but hurry – places must be reserved by Thursday, 17 March.

THE LORD MAYOR'S BIG CURRY LUNCH

At a time when members of the Armed Forces are exposed to constant danger in Afghanistan and elsewhere you can support *ABF The Soldiers Charity* in the wonderful setting of Guildhall on Wednesday 6th April at what is fast becoming an annual event. Download the flyer from the website to book your place.

THE MASTER'S MALT

Enjoy this special limited edition malt whisky, commissioned by the Master from one of Scotland's leading independent producers. All profits will be paid to the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators' Charitable Trust. The order form is on the website.

Financial Services Group of Livery Companies

The Company is part of the Financial Services Group which consists of twelve of the modern Livery Companies the Solicitors, Chartered Accountants, Chartered Secretaries & Administrators, Marketors, Actuaries, Insurers, Arbitrators, Information Technologists, World Traders, Management Consultants, Tax Advisers and International Bankers.

The Group exists to support the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs in their work to promote 'UK plc' throughout the world. The Group's current projects achieving a broader communication of the relationship between the City Civic, the Livery and the Business City to the 40,000 liverymen of the City Livery Companies; contributing to the restoring of trust in the City by supporting a planned steering group under the working title 'Building Confidence & Trust – a City of London initiative' and arranging for each Company to liaise with the Alderman before the Chair (i.e. those who have not been Lord Mayor). We have been asked to look after Alderman Simon Walsh and Alderman Gordon Haines.

The Livery Schools Link

The Livery Schools Link promotes support for schools in the Greater London area by Livery Companies and their members, helping to prepare young people for the world of work. LSL acts as a link between schools in need of help and members of the Livery who wish to offer support. LSL's mission is to assist children from less-advantaged backgrounds to increase their employability and career options.

Members of the Company already take part in LSL projects but more volunteers are required. There are a wide range of projects available to volunteers; some are one-offs, taking periods from 1-2 hours to a full day, other necessitate a longer commitment e.g. 2 hours once a month across the academic year. If you want to know more then come along to the information evening on 23rd March at 6.00pm at Pewterers' Hall (contact Alison Truphet on alisontruphetlsl@gmail.com for details) go to <http://www.liveryschoolslink.co.uk/> or email our representative Simon Underwood on s.underwood@benemack.com.

UK Mediation Skills Competition 2011

The Company successfully ran its first UK Mediation Skills Competition for Students between 14th and 16th January this year. The Competition was open to universities and law colleges throughout the UK and with the support of the ICC was modelled on their International Commercial Mediation Competition. The prize for winning included entry into the 6th International Competition in Paris on 4th – 9th February 2011. The competition is intended to assist in training law students to better understand the skills needed to be effective in negotiation and mediation and to give students the opportunity to exhibit and develop their problem-solving skills.

Feedback from the teams suggests the event was a great success and the Court has agreed to run it again in 2012.

New Freeman and Liverymen

At the Court meeting in February Stuart Catchpole, Naim Hasani, John Tsatsas and Peter Chapman were admitted as Freeman. Michael Cover, Murray Eiland, Benjamin Horn, Stuart Isaacs, Brian Kellett and Christopher Lennon were admitted to the Livery.

The Worshipful Company of Arbitrators

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