



**The Worshipful Company of Arbitrators
Charter Commemoration Banquet, Mansion House
Monday 13th May 2013
Speech by the Master (Karl Davies)**

Wardens, My Lords, Sheriffs, Liverymen, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a measure of the age that the demands upon the Lord Mayor's time are such that not only does he have a substantial overseas programme but even when at home he faces multiple clashes in his diary. We are naturally sorry that one such clash is this evening and that the Lord Mayor cannot be with us, however can I ask you Mr Sheriff to pass on to the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress our warmest greetings and best wishes and our hope that they are having a happy and memorable year. Would you also thank the Lord Mayor for allowing us once again the much valued privilege of enjoying the marvellous surroundings of the Mansion House tonight.

We are delighted to welcome you here to represent the Lord Mayor and to respond to the Civic Toast and equally delighted that Mr Sheriff Pullman is here with you. I have to say however that from my

perspective, at least, the delight in welcoming Mr Sheriff Pullman is tinged with a little trepidation. I should explain. A little over twelve months ago the now Senior Warden and I were despatched by the Clerk to a seminar run by Sheriff Pullman (albeit before he was elected Sheriff) intended to improve the quality of speeches given by Masters and Wardens of Livery Companies. I have wondered if I should stop now and sit down, since I cannot quite escape the concern that he is quietly making notes and that at the end of the evening I will receive an evaluation: something along the lines “B minus - there is scope to do better” or worse still that he will shortly display (in the style of one of those of television talent shows) a red x or a loud hooter to show that I’ve been judged as not up to standard.

Yet, as we celebrate the first anniversary of the presentation of our Royal Charter this is perhaps an opportunity to take stock, to carry out an appraisal of the first year. The Charter contains two key objects for us – first, to foster, that is to encourage and promote, the profession of arbitration and other forms of private dispute resolution and second, to support the Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs and the Aldermen. One possible benchmark for an appraisal is perhaps the Lord Mayor’s theme for this year “The City in Society”. After several years of not entirely undeserved bad press for the financial sector (and here I speak as a former retail banker) the Lord Mayor is keen to promote all that the City does, including the Livery that is of benefit to the wider Society.

Mr Sheriff I hope you will assure the Lord Mayor of our full support and feel able to report to him some of the ways we show that support.

We continue to provide assistance to a selected student at King Edwards School Witley and are continually strengthening our links with 13 Company, Greater London Army Cadet Force, and with our affiliated Royal Naval Ship HMS Mersey. We are looking forward later this year to taking part in the celebrations to mark the tenth anniversary of her launch. The Company is a keen contributor to the Livery Schools Link; one of our Liverymen – Simon Underwood – is the current chairman and we have a particularly close and developing relationship with the Clara Grant primary school in Tower Hamlets. Indeed we have recently offered to fund the publication of an anthology of work by the school's pupils and have arranged for the printing to be carried out by the Ian Karten Centre at Treloar College which as some here may know is a specialist college for young people from age 16 with physical disabilities and which is linked with Treloar's School; itself founded in 1908 by Sir William Purdie Treloar from his mayoral appeal.

The principal beneficiary of the Lord Mayor's Appeal this year is the City Music Foundation, a charity established to give new opportunities to aspiring musicians in the early stages of their careers. The CMF will identify inspirational soloists and ensembles

and make them accessible to a new generation of audiences, young and old, in the UK and abroad. May I ask you Mr Sheriff to accept on behalf of the Lord Mayor this cheque by way of a contribution to his Appeal.

By a happy coincidence both of the Sheriffs this year are members of the World Traders' Company which like us is part of the Financial Services Group of Livery Companies. We continue to be active in the group which as you Mr Sheriff may know is widening its remit to provide briefings not just to the Lord Mayor but to other civic officers and to Aldermen below the chair.

Last year my predecessor pointed out that the objects in our charter were widely drawn expressly to encompass all areas of private dispute resolution. Responding to that challenge, earlier this year we brought together representatives of the wider dispute resolution community over lunch to explore how we can work with them to support the Lord Mayor's endeavours in promoting UK based professional services overseas. We hope these new links will not just enhance the quality of briefing we provide but will also help these British institutions compete in the global market.

Just after he took office the Lord Mayor addressed representatives of the Livery and reminded us of the paradox that to stay true to our past we have to change continually, that continuity demands change.

It is a great strength of this City that, led by successive Lord Mayors, it has shown itself ever ready and capable of adapting to new circumstances, new markets, new opportunities. Long may that be the case.

May I now ask you all to charge your glasses, stand and join me in the toast:

The Lord Mayor, the City of London Corporation and the Sheriffs