



**The Worshipful Company of Arbitrators**  
**Summer Lunch 9<sup>th</sup> July 2013**  
**Speech by the Master (Karl Davies)**

Wardens, Alderman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my very great pleasure to welcome you here today. In particular we welcome not just the official guests of whom more in a moment but also those of you who are guests of individual members – it is a pleasure to have you with us. Earlier today there was a meeting of the Court during which we clothed in the Livery **Margaret Bickford Smith QC** and **Finola O’Farrell QC**. Margaret and Finola, congratulations and a special welcome to you both.

One of the pleasures of being among the sixty plus Livery Companies that do not have their own hall is the opportunity we have to visit other halls and to admire the displays of historic paintings and documents. One of the disadvantages is that we as a Company have only limited occasions to display our own documents and treasures. Today however is one such occasion because Painters’ Hall very kindly look after our modest collection and so we have taken the opportunity to put some of the documents on show and I hope you’ve had a chance to view them.

There is a new addition – seen for the first time today. Recently, in the ancient language of these things, the hereditary Earl Marshal in exercise of the authority bestowed upon him by Her Majesty The Queen issued his warrant for the Heralds at the College of Arms to prepare and grant an heraldic badge to the Company. The short effect of all this is that whilst our Coat of Arms (which we have had for many years) can only be used and displayed by the *Company* we now have something that members can display on business cards, notepaper and even websites to show their association with us.

All of this gives me a lead to welcoming our first guest this afternoon, Alderman **Gordon Haines**, Master of the Painter-Stainers' Company. I will not embarrass the Alderman by reciting the details of his substantial service to the City over more than forty years. Suffice to say that so committed is he to the Livery movement that his leisure activities include restoration of a 12th Century Livery Hall and garden as a family home. Master Painter-Stainer, in thanking you for your hospitality today and for the safe-keeping of our various possessions may I extend a very warm welcome to you and to your Clerk, Christopher Twyman.

The Master of the City of London Solicitors' Company, **David McIntosh** is one of that small group of solicitors who have been appointed an Honorary Queens's Counsel and *The Times* has listed him as one of Britain's one hundred most powerful lawyers. David is a solicitors' solicitor and as well as a history of serving his profession in many capacities his practice today includes representing those being investigated by their regulator or the subject of disciplinary proceedings.

He took office only last month and so Master Solicitor can I wish you a most successful year as well as a welcome today.

On the other hand **Bill Smith**, Master of the Actuaries' Company is fast coming to the end of his time in office and I believe hands over the reins next week. Bill is one of a specific group who, I have to confess, have always frightened me a little. Not I hasten to say because he is a Scotsman but because he is one of those lofty individuals, an honours graduate in pure mathematics. As well as his Fellowship of the Faculty of Actuaries he is a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematics and is still active in supporting education in the field. On a personal note Bill it has been a pleasure to share your company at a number of livery events over the past months and I do hope it has been an enjoyable year for you. Master Actuary you and your Clerk, David Johnson, are most welcome.

Rick Hudson, Master of the Insurers' Company spent 31 years with what was known when I first worked in Liverpool as 'the Royal Insurance Company', one of that city's major businesses. During his time with the Royal he saw service in the USA, Spain and South Africa as well as London. Most intriguingly his 'official' biography stresses that he is NOT an accountant but whether that is meant to somehow reassure others or to convey regret on his part isn't quite clear! Nevertheless Master Insurer you and your Clerk, Sarah Clark, are very welcome.

Nicholas Goulding, Master of the Tax Advisers' Company however *is* a Chartered Accountant as well as being a Chartered Tax Adviser. After qualifying he spent much of his professional career with what we now know as KPMG. I notice from his Company's website that the Master's

year begins in September on St Matthew's Day which I thought quite an interesting choice. You may recall that St Matthew was a tax collector rather than a tax adviser and I do just wonder at the relationship between tax collectors and tax advisers, at least as viewed these days by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs! Master Tax Adviser regardless you are most welcome.

At the Installation Dinner last year I announced that the Master's Charity for the year was to be Concordis International. Concordis use the skills that members of this company apply as commercial dispute resolvers in a wider way helping communities in trouble torn areas and supporting post-conflict nation building in areas such as Sudan, South Sudan, Kenya and Côte d'Ivoire.

Peter Marsden works with Concordis International Peter as an advocate, negotiator and facilitator. Prior to joining Concordis, he was Director of the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East, organising reconciliation meetings between high-level Iraqi religious leaders from across the sectarian divides.

Before that he worked as a family law solicitor in London, specialising in emotive domestic violence cases, including the abuse of children. Peter has kindly offered to say a few words about the work of Concordis International but before he does so I am very pleased to be able to offer him this donation on behalf of the Company to support the work Concordis do.

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Before Peter speaks I now ask the Members of the Company to charge their glasses, rise and join me in the toast to our guests.

OUR GUESTS