



## **The Worshipful Company of Arbitrators**

CLERK: Mrs. Gaye Duffy  
13 Hall Gardens, Colney Heath, St. Albans, Herts AL4 0QF  
Tel: 01727 826578  
E-Mail: [clerk@arbitratorscompany.org](mailto:clerk@arbitratorscompany.org)  
[www.arbitratorscompany.org](http://www.arbitratorscompany.org)

**Speech by the Master – Hew R Dundas**  
**The Worshipful Company of Arbitrators Annual Banquet**  
**Mansion House**  
**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2012**  
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### **Wardens, My Lord Mayor Locum Tenens, My Lords, Attorney-General, Alderman, Sheriff, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Welcome to these very splendid surroundings of the Egyptian Room at the Mansion House; it is a very great privilege for our Company to be dining here and we gratefully thank the Rt Hon the Lord Mayor for allowing us the use of these superb premises. We regret that he is unable to be our guest this evening, being absent abroad representing UK plc; we wish him well in his endeavours.

It is a great honour for me, as Master of this Company, to propose the Civic Toast but, before I do so, permit me to say a few words.

In saying that, I promise not to emulate a certain foreign Ambassador to the Court of St James hosting a large Reception at his Embassy and opening his speech of welcome (until the conclusion of which no-one can eat or drink anything) by reassuring the audience that he had only two points to make. After 42 minutes, His Excellency uttered the magic word ..... “secondly”.

The central focus of my year in office will be that 2012 is the year in which the Company receives its Royal Charter which will formally be presented, on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen, by a member of the Royal Family at Plaisterers’ Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> May.

I am very pleased to report that the ‘scrivening’ of the Charter is complete and the actual document, hand-painted on three sheets of vellum, was collected from the College of Arms last Thursday and immediately delivered to the Privy Council Office for proof-reading against the officially-approved printed text prior to being sent to the Crown Office for affixing of the Great Seal upon which the Charter will become legally effective.

The Charter provides that the Company has two overlapping and complementary Objects, one broadly covering its role as an association of practitioners of any and all forms of private dispute resolution (“PDR”), the other covering its role as a Livery Company of the City of London.

In relation to PDR, I am particularly proud that our Objects expressly provide that we welcome **all** relevant practitioners and our recent intake of new members certainly covers a wide range of practice and disciplines; as the role, scope and breadth of PDR has expanded, so has the Company.

I am also very proud that the Charter provides for the Company to have a strong focus on education and, in that regard, recent initiatives including financial literacy projects in London schools, the outstandingly successful Mediation Skills Competition and the Willem C Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot are particularly satisfying. I am confident that my successors in office will develop these (and other) initiatives to the point where the Company and its members can make significant contributions in all such areas.



enjoyable one for us all. They have made us very welcome and given us a wonderful evening and I am sure you will agree and join me in thanking them all.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hew R Dundas', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

***Hew R Dundas***  
***Master, Worshipful Company of Arbitrators***  
***Chartered Arbitrator DipICarb CEDR-Accredited Mediator***  
***International Arbitrator, Mediator and Expert Determiner***